Continuation with the effort at reduction of exposure of workers to mining hazard through mechanization of loading operations by the use of Side-Discharge Loaders / Load-Haul-Dumpers, Powered Support Longwall Faces, Continuous miner technology, etc.

Promoting workers participation in safety through various committees from the mine level. Area level, the company level to the holding company level.

Losses due to Non Increase of Royalty on Coal

†1449. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase royalty on coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the increase in prices of coal, States are suffering heavy losses due to non increase in royalty to the States;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to increase royalty from Madhya Pradesh Government;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Some of the coal producing states including the Government of Madhya Pradesh, have been writing to the Central Government for enhancing the rate of royalty on coal. Royalty rates on coal were last revised on 16.8.2002 following the recommendation of a Study Group constituted for this purpose. As per Section 9 (3) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957, upward review of royalty on coal shall not be done more than once during any period of 3 years. Therefore, the next upward revision of royalty on coal can be made at any time after 15.8.2005 only. There is no corresponding maximum period after which the royalty has to be revised upwards. Hence, the question of loss incurred by the respective State Governments, including Madhya Pradesh, does not arise.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.